

Sexuality and Intimacy Policy for Residents

This policy is designed to support the rights, dignity, and wellbeing of all residents, including younger adults, by recognizing and addressing their needs for intimacy, relationships, and sexual expression in a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment.

1. Purpose

- To affirm the right of all residents to express their sexuality and form intimate relationships, while ensuring safety, consent, and respect for others.

2. Scope

- Applies to all residents, staff, contractors, and visitors within the facility.

3. Resident Rights

- Residents have the right to privacy, dignity, and autonomy in matters of sexuality and relationships.
- Residents may form consensual intimate relationships with other residents or visitors, subject to facility guidelines.

4. Consent

- All sexual or intimate activity must be consensual.
- Staff must assess and document a resident's capacity to consent if there are concerns regarding cognitive or psychiatric conditions.
- Any non-consensual activity will be treated as abuse and investigated per mandatory reporting laws.

5. Privacy

- Residents may close doors and request privacy for consensual activities.
- Staff must knock and wait before entering private rooms.
- Private spaces will be available where possible for residents seeking privacy.

6. Staff Role and Responsibilities

- Staff shall respect residents' rights to intimacy and refrain from judgment or interference unless safety or consent is in question.
- Staff must report any suspected abuse, coercion, or inappropriate behavior immediately.
- Staff will not initiate or engage in intimate relationships with residents under any circumstances.

7. Education and Access

- Residents will have access to information about sexual health, safe sex practices, and relationship rights.
- Condoms and lubricants will be available discreetly upon request.
- Inclusive practices will be observed for LGBTQ+ residents, including affirming gender identity and orientation.

8. Family and Guardian Involvement

- While family and guardians may be consulted on care plans, they may not override a competent resident's right to intimacy.
- Staff should mediate disputes respectfully and prioritize the resident's autonomy.

9. Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually and updated to reflect best practices, resident feedback, and legal changes.
- Staff will receive regular training on supporting sexuality, consent, and privacy.